Ford Corbett

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What Matters to Me

As antibiotics become more widespread some strains of bacteria survive the onslaught that the antibiotics bring to them. The *Staphylococcus aureus* super bug has become resistant to methicillin, the antibiotic that was used to combat it. This new methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) has killed many people, football players being one of many on the ever-growing list of its victims. Football players are susceptible to this bug because of the sweaty practice jerseys they wear everyday, the shared t-shirts, and the general lack of sanitation in a male locker room shared by many 14-19 year olds. MRSA thrives in this kind of unsanitary environment, with open scratches and blisters from practice to infect . Already resistant to the antibiotic that is supposed to kill it, MRSA is a tough case for any doctor. But all of that can change. Scientists have recently developed a nanoparticle that physically destroys the cell by drilling holes in the cell membrane and all the contents of the cell leak out. The nanoparticles are biodegradable turning into alcohol and carbon dioxide, which will be flushed out of the system just like anything else. With this new technology, thousands of lives can be saved, everyone from football players to bed ridden hospital patients.